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The inspiring and glorious account of Persia's past serves as a gorgeous background for the Persia of to-day, with its crumbling ruins, its poverty and sterility, its corrupt and unwise government, the oppression of the peasants and trades people. The lack of communication checks real nationality and makes it impossible to tap the resources of the country. The Mohammedan faith is blamed for much of the inertia of the people. The belief in fate, the petrifying education of the men, and the ignorance and bondage of the women make real progress impossible.

The writer closes with a quotation from the Persian meaning "Good luck to Iran," and expresses the hope that some great Persian will arise and lead his country to prosperity. Perhaps this wish will be fulfilled by the British, who have already paved the way by their efficient policing of the Gulf of Oman.

LURENA WILSON TOWER.

Turnor, C. *Land Problems and National Welfare*. Pp. xvii, 343. Price, \$2.50. New York: John Lane Company, 1911.

This book is evidence of the continued interest in agricultural problems among the people of Great Britain. It is written by a landowner, who came into an estate of 4200 acres in 1905, and gave up his profession as an architect to act the part of country gentleman. After four years of progressive and profitable farming, he retired from active farming, rented his estate, and apparently became a politician and writer. The present volume gives the author's reflections and conclusions on the subjects of land-holding, agricultural organization, economics, education, politics, and imperial federation.

Mr. Turnor concludes, among other things, that small holdings should be encouraged, but "not unduly" so. Landowners should cultivate the soil more intensively and not preserve so much game; farmers should be better educated and more progressive; labourers should likewise be better educated and should take more interest in their work. Agricultural schools and courses of study along agricultural lines should be increased and extended; in this connection the author notes with approval the work done in the United States. In the chapter on "Political Economy and the Land" the author approves of import taxes on foodstuffs, if they will "benefit the producer." His familiarity with the science of economics is sufficiently illustrated by the following sentence: "From the standpoint of political economy, the middleman, the distributor, is not as useful a citizen as the producer" (p. 208).

The remedies, which are discussed in the last three chapters, evidently lay nearest the writer's heart. These are almost purely political. "The chief problem for the agriculturist is how to make the agricultural influence a power within the House of Commons" (p. 262). As the best way to do this he advocates the formation of a new national party, to support which he would have all English farmers contribute two shillings each to a special Parliamentary fund.

Such a volume may have a certain value in arousing interest in some of the problems connected with the land in Great Britain, but as a contribution to the solution of agricultural problems it is worthless. What interest it has for the reader will depend upon the latter's readiness to accept the writer's unsupported opinions on various subjects. The book is filled with sweeping generalizations, as "on the continent as a whole farms are less well equipped than in England" (p. 12). Nowhere does the author critically analyze or even evidence a thorough understanding of the really fundamental problems in English agriculture, nor are his remedies more than political palliatives. Compared with such valuable contributions to the subject as those of Rider Haggard, Pratt, Seeböhm Rowntree, and Sir Horace Plunkett, the present volume must be characterized simply as the observations of a none-too-well-informed onlooker.

ERNEST L. BOGART.

University of Illinois.

Van Hise, Charles R. *The Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States.* Pp. xiv, 413. Price, \$2.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

This timely volume serves two purposes: it sets forth the essential facts about our real natural wealth; and it states plainly what must be done to conserve that wealth for future generations. The subject matter is drawn largely from the voluminous report of the National Conservation Commission, published as Senate Document No. 676, of the 60th Congress, 2nd Session. The report contains much material not covered by the book, but unfortunate opposition in Congress prevented the publication of an edition for public distribution. This volume, therefore, really makes generally available for the first time, the epoch-making report on the state of our national resources. Additional material is introduced here and there, but to no great extent.

The subject matter is discussed under the five heads: mineral resources; water; forests; the land; and the conservation of mankind. The first four of these heads are the most important part of the book. Under each head the discussion includes extent and location of resources, their present use, waste, abuses, and the suggested means of preventing unnecessary impairment of these sources of national strength. The great principle that real conservation is simply wise use is constantly in the foreground. The amount of information which is conveyed in small space is amazing.

The reviewer is now using the book as a text and finds that it arouses the keenest interest among all types of students. It is a book which anyone can read with both pleasure and profit. It is a book which every man in the country should read carefully from cover to cover.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.